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Mike Hudson, Curator  
American Printing House for the Blind  
Hall of Fame: Leaders and Legends  
of the Blindness Field  
1839 Frankfort Avenue  
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

Dear Mr. Hudson:

It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that I nominate Marc Maurer for admission to the APH Hall of Fame. In the space of a letter, I cannot fully address the accomplishments (so far) of his lifetime in changing what it means to be blind. I am quite certain, also, that I do not know the whole of it.

In late summer of 1986, shortly after his accession to the presidency of the National Federation of the Blind, I was asked by Marc Maurer to represent some Maryland Randolph-Sheppard vendors who were still subjected to the gross set-asides that Congress had abolished a decade before, but which the State had never altered. I knew nothing about blindness or the disability rights movement, but Dr. Maurer undertook to educate me as he has so many others. Over the next three plus decades we worked together hard and joyfully.

At first, the cases NFB did were reactive to situations that arose—a child being removed by a social service agency solely because the custodial parent was blind, for example. But over the passage of time, Dr. Maurer began to use the tools of litigation more in terms of a campaign to change the opportunities for blind people and to create accessibility where none existed. As new digital tools and services developed, he directed successful litigation campaigns to make voting machines, ATMs, digital books, websites, educational software, to name but a few areas, accessible to the blind. But he was more than the field marshal laying out the battle plan for me to execute. His understanding of how to effectively approach those with unthinking bias toward blindness and his steadfastness in the face of adversity was critical to our success.

For Dr. Maurer, getting an equitable result came first. With his encouragement, I coordinated my litigation with Lainey Feingold, representing the California Council of the Blind, so that we didn't get in each other's way. And when I formed a Reading Rights Coalition to push back the Author's

Guild and the publishers from fighting the inclusion of text-to-speech in the second Kindle, he encouraged me to include the American Council of the Blind. Later, when we successfully sued a university for deploying a special Kindle in college education, I did so on behalf of both the NFB and the ACB in supporting an excluded blind student.

What was emblematic of Dr. Maurer's approach was how these cases ended—usually like the last scene of *Casablanca* when Humphrey Bogart and Claude Rains walk off into the sunset proclaiming it to be the start of a beautiful friendship. Over and over and over again, our adversaries became our friends and supporters, converts to accessibility. I came to realize it was the dignity and respect with which Marc Maurer treats every person he encounters that was at the heart of this unusual success.

Marc Maurer also realized that for the disability rights movement to grow, disability rights lawyers needed to gather and share information, strategies, and techniques. This resulted in the annual tenBroek Disability Rights Law Symposium, attended not only by disability rights lawyers, but law professors, law students and lawyers from the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. He also created a space within which the Disability Rights Bar Association could be founded and thrive.

At the same time that we were pursuing a remarkable litigation agenda and he was pursuing also an ambitious legislative agenda, the staff of the National Federation of the Blind was growing, diversifying, and developing sustained programs for blind youth in STEM and Braille literacy. His willingness to empower NFB staff attracted extraordinary and energetic talent. He made sure that a genius like George Kerscher got the support he needed on the terms George needed it. He has encouraged so many in so many endeavors in so many ways

I am several years older than Marc Maurer, but I count myself, proudly, one of his mentees. Watching him has taught me so much about dignity, kindness, quiet perseverance, courage, and generosity of spirit. He has shared that and so much else of himself for the benefit of the blind. As a result, both the civil rights of the blind movement and individuals, blind and otherwise, have the opportunity for fuller lives.

If you have any questions, I would be delighted to answer them.

Very truly yours,

Daniel F. Goldstein

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